



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 7, Issue 47

December 8, 2005

Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Promoting Girls' Education: *United States Provides 1,000 New Scholarships*

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) On Tuesday, December 6, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, joined Minister of Education Dr. Sentayehu Woldemichael at Yekatit 12 Secondary School to announce the 2005-2006 Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program. Provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), this year's Ambassador's Girls Scholarships are enabling 1,000 Ethio-

pian girls at 28 schools across the country to be-



Ambassador Huddleston shakes hands with one scholarship student as State Minister Fuad Ibrahim hands out school bag.

gin secondary school, while scholarships pro-

vided previously are continuing to support nearly 100 girls approaching graduation.

The U.S., through USAID, has been implementing the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program since 2000. Prior to this year, a total of 1,380 girls have benefited from the program since then, making Ethiopia's Scholarship Program one of the largest

(Continued on page 2)

Awareness Creation on Cultural Preservation in Dire Sheikh Hussein:

Project Launch Highlights U.S. Cultural Support Agreement to Preserve Historic Mosque

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Counselor Dr. Anthony Fisher traveled to the Bale Zone of Oromiya on December 3rd, along with Oromiya Region Culture and Tourism Bureau Chief Ato Aliyu Umer to launch a cultural preser-

vation project at the historic Sheikh Nur Hussein Shrine, a religious pilgrimage site established in the 13th Century.

The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, an annual competitive

program of the U.S. Department of State, provided a grant in the amount of \$25,600 to the Oromiya Regional Government to conduct structural assessment at this unique site and to

(Continued on page 3)

African issues

State's Frazer Discusses U.S.-Chinese Cooperation on Africa (P 4)

U.S. Program Brings AIDS Treatment to 400,000 Africans (P 5)

Africa-U.S. Energy Ties Highly Valued, Energy Secretary Says (P 6)

African Cotton Farmers Will Benefit from U.S. Actions (P 7)

American News

U.S. Builds Democracy with Foreign Help, Election Monitor Says (P 8)

USAID Administrator Natsios Resigning for University Position (P 9)

Death Penalty Remains Subject of Debate in United States (P 10)

International issues

U.S. Following Rule of Law, Rice Tells German Chancellor (P 11)

New Civic Education Book Links Democracy to Islamic Principles (P 13)

United Nations Seeks \$4.6 Billion for Humanitarian Aid in 2006 (P 15)

Health news

Cooked Poultry, Eggs Will Not Transmit Bird Flu Virus (P 16)

New Antibody Shows Promise as Anthrax Cure (P 18)

Promoting Girls' Education: . . .

(Continued from page 1)

in Africa. The program includes tuition, housing allowance, educational materials, and tutorial services to ensure access for girls to education at the secondary school level in Ethiopia.

The Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program is designed to help girls who are economically disadvantaged but academically high-performing stay in school and to enable

them to achieve the highest possible standard of secondary education. The program is part of President Bush's African Education Initiative, which promotes innovative ways of providing more and better education across the continent.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Huddleston encouraged the group of scholarship recipients

who attended the ceremony to aim high, reminding them of the words of President John F. Kennedy: "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest

economic and socio-cultural factors. Studies indicate that the majority of rural families frequently choose to send their boys rather than girls to school. Moreover, the repetition



Girl students from Yekatit 12 Secondary School and Menelik II Secondary School who won scholarships from the 2005/2006 AGSP at the launching ceremony.

abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

In his remarks, USAID/Ethiopia's director William Hammink noted that in Ethiopia, girls' enrollment in school and their academic performance are greatly affected by eco-

and dropout rates for girls at the primary school level far exceed that of boys. Providing scholarships, tutorial services, and mentoring can help to close the gender gap in education and improve the performance of girls in school. ♦

Awareness Creation on Cultural Preservation in Dire Sheikh Hussein: . . .

(Continued from page 1)

arrest further deterioration of the mosque built by Sheikh Hussein nearly a thousand years ago. It is hoped that the support provided through this program will help further the efforts of the Oromiya Regional Government to register the Sheikh Nur Hussein Shrine as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, created in 2001, is the only U.S. Government program that provides direct small

grant support to heritage preservation in less developed countries. In 2005, 120 countries were eligible to participate in the Ambassador's Fund; Ethiopia's successful program was one of 87 chosen for funding out of a total of over 150 proposals.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Dr. Fisher noted that Ethiopia's successful participation in the 2005 Ambassador's Fund competition was a sign not only of deep U. S.-Ethiopian cultural ties, but also

of the American people's recognition of the richness and depth of Ethiopia's cultural heritage. He pointed out that the Sheikh Hussein Shrine is an important symbol of Ethiopia's history and religious diversity; a lasting symbol of the pluralist and tolerant version of Islam traditionally practiced in Ethiopia. ♦



Sheikh Nur Hussein Shrine

State's Frazer Discusses U.S.-Chinese Cooperation on Africa

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Following talks with top foreign policy officials in Beijing, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer says she is optimistic about the United States and China cooperating to advance development on the African continent.

Frazer told journalists at a December 5 Foreign Press Center briefing in Washington: "In all the years I've studied and worked on Africa I have not known a more auspicious time to consolidate the progress and promise of the continent. Democracy in Africa is growing, with more than 50 democratic elections in the past four years."

The official made her remarks in the lead-up to the December 10 U. N. Human Rights Day.

Describing her November trip to China, Frazer said her meetings with officials in Beijing were "very productive and quite constructive." She added: "I'm looking forward to continuing this dialogue. There are many areas where I think we absolutely can cooperate."

The former White House Africa adviser and ambassador to South Africa explained that she traveled to Beijing November 27-30 "to carry out part of Deputy Secretary [of State Robert] Zoellick's strategic dialogue with China. I went as part of the first subregional dialogue that started with Africa."

During "broad consultations" with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Dai Binggou, Assistant For-

eign Minister for African Affairs Lu Guozeng and Director General for Policy Planning Du Qiwen, Frazer said, "we talked about ... the United States' historical relationship with Africa [and] China's historical relationship with Africa."



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer

She added: "We also had an opportunity to talk about the principles, values and interests that inform our policies and programs in Africa. And we had a chance to talk about specific countries and the ways we might cooperate together in terms of helping advance the NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development] vision that Africans themselves have set out for the development of their continent." (See related article. (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Nov/18-465505.html>))

She said she looked forward to inviting her Chinese counterpart for follow-up discussions on Africa after Zoellick ends his meetings with Deputy Minister Dai, currently taking place in Washington.

U.S., CHINA NOT ADVERSARIES IN AFRICA, FRAZER SAYS

Asked by a foreign journalist to comment on a recent report by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) that, according to the journalist, said that China's "goals" in Africa run counter to America's, Frazer said she had only "skimmed" the two-day-old, 140-page study. But she said she did not believe that "China's interest or engagement in Africa is in direct competition to the United States'."

"I think China has as great a right to engage in Africa as any other country, [and] there is enough good to be done" on the continent," she stressed.

The CFR report, *More Than Humanitarianism: A Strategic U.S. Approach Toward Africa*, while acknowledging political and economic challenges from the Chinese in Africa, states: "It would be easy, but mistaken, to consider China an adversary in Africa."

The report, co-authored by Clinton administration National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, made plain that "China is a legitimate competitor for natural resources. It is necessary to recognize that the rise of China, India and other Asian countries changes the strategic and economic environment in Africa."

APPROACHES TO SUDAN MAY DIFFER

Frazer acknowledged, "there are various countries [in Africa] where clearly our [U.S. and Chinese] policies do not cohere," such as Sudan.

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. Program Brings AIDS Treatment to 400,000 Africans

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – President George Bush joined the international recognition of World AIDS Day December 1 with an announcement of successes and new initiatives in the U.S. contribution to the global struggle against the epidemic.

U.S. efforts to increase assistance to the world's most AIDS-afflicted nations are now delivering life-saving medicines to approximately 400,000 people, eight times the number receiving treatment three years ago, Bush said.

In 2003 the United States launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), making a five-year, \$15 billion commitment to scale up AIDS treatment, prevention and care. (See related article (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/HIV_AIDS/hiv_aids_initiative.html).

The president made this announcement with Thandazile Darby and her two children seated behind him. They are South Africans with HIV who are now receiving treatment under PEPFAR.

"Thandazile's late husband's relatives tried to support her treatment for as long as they could, but the cost was too high," Bush said. "Thanks to the Emergency Plan funds, the Darbys began to get the treatment they desperately needed. Soon these children will start school -- and now their mom dreams that someday they will attend college."

Joined by first lady Laura Bush, many members of his Cabinet and members of Congress in a White

House ceremony, the president announced a new component of PEPFAR called the New Partners Initiative to promote greater U.S. partnership with faith-based and community-based organizations as they work to treat and support HIV-infected persons, and prevent further transmission of the disease.

"We will further reach out to our faith-based and community organizations that provide much of the health care in the developing world and make sure they have access to American assistance," Bush said. "By identifying and supporting these organizations, we will reach more people, more effectively and save more lives."

A Ugandan physician who has been a U.S. partner in scaling up AIDS treatment also participated in the World AIDS Day event. President Bush introduced Dr. Peter Mujenyi, who has received U.S. support to open clinics for treatment of AIDS patients.

"Today there are 35 sites, many of them in remote rural areas that provide treatment to 35,000 of his countrymen," said Bush. The president praised Dr. Mujenyi for his leadership and his compassion in combating the disease, and extended that admiration to all the medical workers and community activists in the 15 countries that receive special focus under PEPFAR as home to approximately half of the 40 million people living with HIV.

On World AIDS Day, Bush said the United States renews its commitment to confront the global health crisis of AIDS and "turn the tide" on the epidemic.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/12/20051201.html>) of the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

The National Institutes of Health, the agency leading the U.S. research effort on treatments and vaccines, issued a World AIDS Day statement (<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/nov2005/od-30.htm>) on the progress in this mission.

In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development, an important partner in enacting PEPFAR programs, issued a summary (<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2005/pr051201.html>) of its progress in fighting the pandemic.

Additional information (<http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac>) about World AIDS Day is available on the World AIDS Campaign Web site.

For more information, see HIV/AIDS (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Africa-U.S. Energy Ties Highly Valued, Energy Secretary Says

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The value the Bush administration places on enhanced energy and economic ties between the United States and the nations of Africa is underscored by the U.S. Department of Energy's first-ever co-sponsorship with the Corporate Council on Africa of the 2005 Africa Oil and Gas Forum, U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman said December 1.

Addressing the closing session of the three-day energy conference, Bodman told African oil ministers, "Your presence and the presence of all of these delegations is proof of the importance of what we are trying to accomplish through these meetings."

Bodman said the development of an energy sector to drive Africa's economic growth cannot be limited to one or two countries. "Success will require cooperative efforts that involve all of Africa -- from north to south, from east to west, all of these efforts that go farther ... cross oceans and reach out to every corner of the globe. This has to be an integrated effort."

Both Africa and the United States face one overriding energy challenge, Bodman told his audience: energy security -- "plentiful, reliable and affordable supplies of a mix of energy sources" at home and abroad that are consumed in an environmentally sound manner and are sustainable over the long term.

ENERGY SECURITY "ESSENTIAL" TO GROWTH

Bodman called energy security "essential" to economic growth and prosperity and said that it best can be reached through a multilateral approach. President Bush



Samuel Bodman
US Energy Secretary

spelled out such an approach, he said, in a statement on national energy policy in 2001, shortly after taking office.

That plan, Bodman said, contained detailed recommendations, the most remarkable of which stressed the promotion of "enhanced international relationships" worldwide, and the importance of transparency, the sanctity of contracts and security of private property, the protection of intellectual property, a dedication to regulatory certainty and adherence to the rule of law.

"Only when these pillars are in place will private companies -- including many that are represented here in this forum -- feel confident to invest on the scale that is necessary to fully develop the abundant resources that are found in so many African nations," he said.

"We want to see more African countries engaged in programs with the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act [AGOA] and other trade-enabling mechanisms," Bodman said.

Under AGOA, enacted in May 2000, eligible countries receive duty-free access to the U.S. market for most of their products, a provision that offers tangible incentives for countries to continue efforts to open their economies and build free markets. (See African Growth and Opportunity Act (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)).

Bodman said a reliable energy infrastructure and a developed energy services sector are critical to developing oil and gas resources and expanding trade and investment between the United States and African nations.

AFRICA'S ROLE IN WORLD ENERGY MARKETS

All nations must work together on energy matters, Bodman said, adding, "No nation can really go it alone." He cited the important role Africa now plays in world energy markets by supplying more than 10 million barrels per day to the

(Continued on page 19)

African Cotton Farmers Will Benefit from U.S. Actions

The United States is pursuing a two-pronged approach to address the concerns of African farmers who feel they are being hurt by developed-country domestic supports, tariffs and export subsidies and by low world cotton prices.

U.S. efforts to help African farmers were outlined in a fact sheet released November 29 by the U.S. Department of State.

The two elements of the U.S. approach, according to the fact sheet, are to eliminate domestic supports, export subsidies and tariffs and to support a variety of development assistance programs "to help African farmers increase their agricultural productivity and improve their capacity to trade in cotton and other crops."

The U.S. strategies will target farmers "in such countries as Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal



and Chad [who are] are dependent on cotton as a primary source of income to feed their families, educate their children and raise their standards of living," according to the fact sheet.

For additional information, see Trade and Economic Development

(http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development.html).

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

State's Frazer Discusses U.S.-Chinese Cooperation on Africa . . .

(Continued from page 4)

On the crisis in Sudan, Frazer said, "We very much back the African Union [AU] force in Darfur" and are working "to strengthen its capacity" from 7,000 to 12,000 peacekeepers, which is difficult, in part, because many African nations currently furnishing peacekeepers are being stretched to their maximum.

"So we have to look at other options to get that troop ceiling up to about 12,000," she told journalists. "And that may include looking at U.N. troop contributors. The AU hasn't made that request yet, but we are certainly considering it as one of the options to strengthen the force."

Ultimately, though, Frazer said, outside intervention in Sudan "can't be a panacea for what is the true solution in Darfur, which is a political settlement, and that is why the talks in Abuja [Nigeria, between the Khartoum government and Darfuri rebel forces] are so important."

For additional information, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Builds Democracy with Foreign Help, Election Monitor Says

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Even though promotion of freedom and liberty underlies much of U.S. foreign policy, America does not have a monopoly on the proper way to build democracy abroad, says Jeff Krilla, Africa regional director for the International Republican Institute (IRI), one of several democracy-building nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) funded by the U.S. government.

"Outside help from the United States and other countries can play a critical role in creating the opportunity for democracy that local people seek," said Krilla, who returned recently from an IRI election-monitoring mission to Liberia.

The main question for those who develop U.S. foreign policy, he added, is "how to foster and operationalize [America's] principled and ... bipartisan commitment to democratization abroad," while taking local customs and traditions into consideration.

Krilla spoke on the topic "Democracy, Values and Rights" at a November 29 luncheon at the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR) club in Washington. DACOR's 3,000 members -- retired U.S. Foreign Service officers and their spouses -- fund a scholarship program that will provide \$190,000 to university students in 2006 for the study of foreign affairs.

Since the mid-1980s, when IRI and several other democracy-building NGOs were established by Congress, Krilla said, the objective has been "quite simple": to foster

the infrastructure of democracy -- a free press, unions, political parties and universities -- that "allows a people to choose their own way to develop their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means."

BUILDING DEMOCRACY A GLOBAL CONCERN

But "a critical point to make here," he said, "is that the United States does not have a monopoly on virtue when it comes to assisting people around the world to master the practice of democratic self-government."

According to Krilla, "The people most eager to assist struggling democratic politicians today are not Americans, but the people of recently freed societies" in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa.

As an IRI election observer, he said, he has "seen the desire for freedom and faith in democracy in the eyes of voters in Nigeria, in Kenya, Afghanistan, Somaliland and most recently in Liberia."

Often walking great distances, Krilla said, "these new voters went to their polling stations, some in schools and others in village meeting rooms with mud floors and thatched roofs. They came with hope and determination. They came to exercise the fundamental right of self-determination that is empowering."

To further that end, Krilla said, his organization, as well as other NGOs such as the National Endowment for Democracy and the National Democratic Institute, use foreign expertise and local knowledge in their democracy programs.

Today, said Krilla, "there are young Serbs and Ukrainians working for IRI in Iraq. A Slovakian NGO works with us to host Iraqi NGO leaders for training. A Czech NGO -- the People in Need Foundation -- is a key partner with IRI working on Cuba."

Within emerging democracies, Krilla explained, IRI works with indigenous groups that promote free media, human rights and "the political participation of women, young people and marginalized regional, religious and ethnic groups."

The goal, he said, is to build up civil institutions through training of local trainers in processes like election monitoring. They, in turn, "can more effectively spread the knowledge of techniques and ideas to their compatriots -- in their own language and in their own towns and villages."

That was the idea, he said, behind U.S. NGO support of Solidarity in Poland, the South African Institute for Race Relations, the Directorio Democratico Cubano, the Cambodian Center for Human Rights and the Iraqi Foundation for Democracy and Development.

Krilla said American NGOs also have developed a growing number of "skilled partner organizations" among U.S. allies to help emerging nations such as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in Britain, the Foundation for Social Analysis and Study in Spain, the Institute for Multiparty Democracy in the Netherlands, and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

(Continued on page 9)

USAID Administrator Natsios Resigning for University Position

Washington -- Andrew Natsios, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator for nearly five years, has announced his resignation to accept a teaching position.

In a December 2 press statement, Natsios said he has accepted an offer to join the faculty of the foreign service school at Georgetown University in Washington, his alma mater. No successor has been announced yet by the Bush administration.

"The attack on the United States on 9/11, the rebuilding of Afghanistan and Iraq, the peace agreement in Sudan and the genocide in Darfur, the Asian Tsunami, and President Bush's transformational initiatives in foreign aid all tested the expertise and operational capabilities of the Agency in a way nothing in decades has done," Natsios said.

"I am very proud of what we have accomplished in difficult op-

erating environments where our staff has been at risk," he added.



Andrew Natsios, speaks to the press on December 2.

Accepting the January resignation with regret, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised Natsios for his can-do approach to tackling the most difficult and urgent problems.

"The best thing about working with Andrew is that I've called him many, many times on the telephone, whether it was a tsunami

or Pakistan or even our contribution to Katrina," Rice said, "and I don't ever remember Andrew saying, 'No, that can't be done.' I always remember that he said, 'Let me get back to you on how we're going to do it.'"

Natsios also had worked for USAID under the first President Bush as director of the foreign disaster assistance and under President Clinton as assistant USAID administrator.

The text of Natsios' press statement (<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2005/pr051202.html>) is available on the USAID Web site; the tran-

script (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/57557.htm>) of his and Rice's remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Builds Democracy with Foreign Help, . . .

(Continued from page 8)

He added that politicians in El Salvador helped IRI "work with parties that have grown out of militias to disarm and reorient themselves toward democratic action." And the government of Quebec in Canada "has been a tremendous source of experience and French-speakers, helping our work in Haiti."

American NGOs are "fortunate to have these organizations to help us to undertake

what is often very challenging work," Krilla concluded.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Democracy (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy.html>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Death Penalty Remains Subject of Debate in United States

By Carol Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- In the United States, the death penalty, or capital punishment, may be prescribed by Congress for federal capital crimes and by some states for murder and violent crimes.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1976 that the death penalty is not a violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, which bans cruel and unusual punishment. That ruling came in the wake of a 10-year moratorium on executions. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Nov/04-212543.html>).)

Arguments in favor of the death penalty in the United States include deterrence and retribution. Opponents say that the risk of executing the innocent should preclude use of the death penalty. They also question the fairness in the way the death penalty is applied.

At a press briefing on December 2, White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters that it is important that the death penalty be "administered fairly and swiftly and surely and that helps it serve as a deterrent." He added that President Bush supports initiatives to expand the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful convictions.

Amnesty International, which opposes the death penalty, in its statement after Boyd was put to death, said the executions "have resulted in immeasurable human costs -- for the victims of violent crime, for the families of those who were executed, and for those



who participated in these state-sanctioned killings."

An October Gallup Poll reports that 64 percent of Americans support the death penalty. This figure is down from 74 percent in May.

The proposed reauthorization of the Patriot Act could affect the death penalty for federal offenses. Several provisions in the reauthorization of the anti-terrorism law would triple the number of terrorism-related crimes subject to the death penalty. The legislative changes, sponsored by Representative John Carter, a Texas Republican, would make it easier for prosecutors to seek a capital conviction in cases in which a defendant had not intended to kill and to retry cases if a jury is deadlocked over a death sentence.

Other capital punishment issues likely to be in the headlines in the near future include the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project, which was launched in September 2001 as the association's attempt to obtain a nationwide moratorium on executions. In the summer of 2005, the ABA moratorium project completed its final set of state assessments.

In North Carolina, House Speaker

Jim Black appointed a Death Penalty Study Commission in October to examine how the death penalty is carried out in the state. Also in October, the Florida Supreme Court urged state legislators to require capital-case jurors to be unanimous in recom-

mending death sentences or at least unanimous in deciding what aggravating factors support a death sentence.

Federal legislation concerning death penalty appeal laws is pending, including the Streamlined Procedures Act (S 1088), which would limit appeals by those sentenced to the death penalty.

Amnesty International reports that 121 countries have abolished the death penalty worldwide in law or practice.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, 38 STATES STILL ALLOW DEATH PENALTY

Today criminals in 38 states and those convicted of federal crimes could face the death penalty in the United States. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have abolished the death penalty. Death-penalty statutes in New York and Kansas were declared unconstitutional in 2004.

State prosecutors in the 38 states with a death penalty "by and large believe in it as a deterrent and believe it should be used wisely, sparingly," according to Paul A. Logli, an Illinois prosecutor and president of the National Dis-

(Continued on page 12)

U.S. Following Rule of Law, Rice Tells German Chancellor

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States will do everything it can within the limits of the law to protect its people against terrorists, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said while meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin December 6.

The United States and Germany “do share values, and we do share a belief in the rule of law,” Rice said in a joint news conference with Merkel. “We will live up to our commitments under our laws and to our international obligations. We will, in that framework, do everything that we can do lawfully to protect our people.”

Also, Rice said, “We will do everything we can to cooperate with like-minded intelligence services, because we need to remember that this is essentially a war in which intelligence is absolutely key to success.”

Germany’s new chancellor praised Rice’s statement the previous day in which the secretary of state, preparing to depart for a visit to four European countries, said the United States “does not permit, tolerate or condone torture under any circumstances.” (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Dec/05-471726.html>)).

“I think that the statement, the

information that the American secretary of state provided yesterday ... and the information she provided me with here today is good information, valuable information for the German people,” Merkel said during the joint news conference. She spoke through an interpreter.

Rice’s visit to Germany, Ukraine, Romania and Belgium takes place

been released, and that the matter will be reviewed by Germany’s parliament. Rice said she could not discuss specific details.

“I did say to the chancellor that when and if mistakes are made, we work very hard and as quickly as possible to rectify them,” Rice said. “Any policy will sometimes have mistakes, and it is our promise to our partners that – should

that be the case – that we will do everything that we can to rectify those mistakes.”

Merkel said the meeting with Rice “covered the complete spectrum of foreign policy,” and she said Germany’s foreign policy “serves on two pillars, one of which is a European unity and the other is a close trans-Atlantic partnership.” Merkel has said she wants to promote closer

ties with the United States, and she is scheduled to meet with President Bush at the White House on January 11, 2006.

During the news conference, Merkel herself raised the issue of CIA flights through German airspace. “We have to, on the one hand, adhere to the rules of democracy,” she said. “But at the same time, we have to see that our intelligence services can actually do the job that they’ve been created to do, which is to say we need intelligence services in order to be able to face up to the threats



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (L) address a news conference after a meeting at the federal Chancellery in Berlin, December 6, 2005.

amid news reports that the CIA has run secret interrogation centers in at least two East European countries. The allegations have resonated in Western Europe, where public opinion has been deeply concerned about the conduct of the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism. Germans also are concerned that some of the alleged CIA flights may have crossed German airspace.

During the news conference, Merkel said the U.S. government has acknowledged that it “erroneously” took a German citizen into custody who has since

(Continued on page 12)

U.S. Following Rule of Law, Rice Tells German Chancellor . . .

(Continued from page 11)

to our society in this century of ours."

Rice said she discussed the issue of detainees with Merkel. In that discussion, she stressed that Americans are following U.S. law and meeting international obligations against torture.

However, intelligence services are under intense pressure to apprehend terrorists before they strike, Rice told reporters.

"If you don't get to them before they commit their crimes, unlike in the traditional law-enforcement area, they will have committed mass murder against innocent people," she said. "When you face that kind of threat, you have an obligation to do everything that you can do protect people. And that means getting to the perpetra-

tors of such crimes before they can commit them."

Earlier in the day, aboard her plane en route to Germany, Rice expanded on her recent statements that the United States does not condone torture of terrorist suspects.

"The president would never ask American citizens to behave unlawfully," Rice told reporters.

"What I will say to my European colleagues is ... that we're operating under our laws, we're operating under our international obligations, we're respecting the sovereignty of the countries with which we are cooperating," Rice said.

Despite repeated questioning by journalists, she declined to discuss details of the alleged detention centers and would neither confirm

nor deny their existence, saying such matters are classified. "I'm not going to compromise intelligence activities that have a chance to save lives," Rice said. "I would not, under any circumstances, comment yes or no on whether certain kinds of intelligence activities take place." (See transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/57643.htm>) of Rice's remarks en route to Germany.)

The transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/57672.htm>) of Rice's joint news conference with German Chancellor Merkel is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Death Penalty Remains Subject of Debate in United States . . .

(Continued from page 10)

strict Attorneys Association, who was quoted in the Washington Post after Boyd's execution on December 2.

Federal laws providing for the death penalty include such homicide-related crimes as murder committed during a drug-related shooting, civil rights offenses resulting in murder, murder related to sexual exploitation of children, murder related to a carjacking or kidnapping and murder related to rape. Crimes not related to homicide that may result in a death sentence include espionage, treason and drug trafficking.

Individual states have guidelines for imposing the death penalty. In general, criminals convicted of first-degree murder under certain circumstances face the death penalty in all states with capital punishment on the books. In California, for example, the death penalty also can be imposed for wrecking a train, committing treason and committing perjury that results in death.

NO DEATH PENALTY FOR UNDERAGE CONVICTED MURDERERS; MENTALLY RETARDED

The U.S. Supreme Court over-

turned sentences in 19 states when it ruled in March that the death penalty could not be imposed on convicted murderers who were under the age of 18 at the time they committed their crimes. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Mar/01-985703.html>).)

In October, the court upheld the right of individual U.S. states to establish their own guidelines for determining whether a defendant facing the death penalty is mentally retarded and therefore ineligible for execution. The Supreme

(Continued on page 19)

New Civic Education Book Links Democracy to Islamic Principles

By Ralph Dannheisser
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Democracy can take root in the Muslim world only if the average citizen sees it as compatible with Islam, according to the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID) and StreetLaw Inc., two groups that seek to plant the seeds for democratic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

"Everybody in the Muslim world, if given a choice between Islam and anything else, will always choose Islam," says CSID's founder and executive director Radwan Masmoudi. "And the problem is that democracy was presented to them in many cases as something alien and something that is not really compatible with Islam, and they have to choose between the two."

"This is a false choice, this is not a choice that they have to make, and we have to convince them of that," he says. "We have to present to them democracy and tie it with Islamic concepts that they are accustomed to," such as the principle of shura, or consultative decision-making.

To achieve this goal, CSID and StreetLaw recruited eight authors - two each from Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and Morocco -- to develop an Arabic-language workbook intertwining democratic concepts with Islamic principles.

The final product, *Islam and Democracy: Toward Effective Citizenship*, is based on a book developed

more than a decade ago for use in South Africa and other emerging democracies, but the authors reworked the text to make it relevant to a Muslim audience.

The book's producers plan to present it to community leaders in Muslim countries in hopes that those leaders will convey the message of democracy to their countrymen.



Radwan Masmoudi

CSID is a Washington-based think tank dedicated to "promoting democratic reforms in the Muslim world, connecting Islamic values with principles of freedom and participation," and StreetLaw is a Washington-based group that fosters citizen action by providing "practical, participatory education about law, democracy and human rights."

Masmoudi sees the collaborative effort between CSID and StreetLaw as a natural partnership. He says he told StreetLaw officials, "You guys know how to teach democracy, we know about Islam and how to teach Islam. Let's work together on this project."

Mary Larkin, StreetLaw's director of international programs, is equally enthusiastic and sure that education is the most effective way to promote democracy.

"We don't have to act as ... advocates," she says. "Given the information about democracy, given the information about the compatibility with Islam, the populous will make the decision that's best for them."

BOOK EDUCATES THROUGH REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS

The authors of *Islam and Democracy* include a newly elected member of the Jordanian Senate and members of parliament from Morocco and Algeria, as well as a professor, a journalist, a pair of human rights experts and a citizenship education activist.

Their 129-page book, full of facts, philosophy and workbook exercises, was presented to the public at a November 29 Washington reception.

The book contains chapters on what democracy is, how the state works, corruption and abuse of power, human rights, elections and citizen participation.

The preface states, "The book takes no religious or political position concerning Islam or democracy and strives to present materials that are neutral and balanced. We aim to promote discussion, promote tolerance and support citizen participation."

Larkin says the workbook exercises are based on experiences and situations that might be familiar to the book's audiences. An exercise on the legitimacy of power presents a situation in which street protests turn into looting after a legitimately elected government fails to quell an economic crisis. A group of army officers seizes power and imposes its own solutions.

"Which of these two parties," the text asks, "has the legitimate power and the right to rule in this case: the elected government or

(Continued on page 14)

New Civic Education Book Links Democracy . . .

(Continued from page 13)
the military government?"

Another exercise exploring the accountability of high officials before the law presents the case of a bank manager, summoned for investigation in a corruption case, who testifies that he acted on orders of a high government official.

It asks readers to consider, "What are the bank manager's arguments? Should the high official be summoned? Why? What are the prosecutor's arguments?" and finally, "If you were the judge, what would your judgment be?"

PROMOTIONAL TOUR INCLUDES STOPS IN MOROCCO, ALGERIA

Larkin, Masmoudi and a pair of colleagues begin a 10-day tour of Morocco and Algeria December 4 to present the book to civic, religious and education leaders and officials of nongovernmental organizations, and teach them how to use the texts in their own communities.

"Through them, we have a goal of reaching over 2,000 ordinary citizens in each country. We'll supply them with the materials," Larkin says. "We're committed to bringing a discussion of democracy out of academia and out of the ivory tower because democracy happens when the everyday people want it."

The group plans a similar visit to Egypt and Jordan in January, and if these four pilot programs are

successful, the sponsors hope to take it to other countries.

Masmoudi has "huge expectations" for the book and its potential impact across the Muslim world in explaining the concepts of

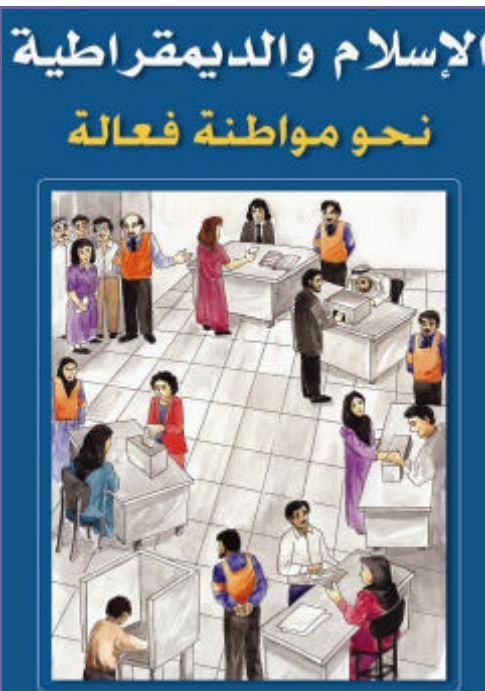
moudi says. With democracy on the rise elsewhere in the world, he asks, "When are we going to have in the Arab world people going out in peaceful demonstrations asking for freedom and democracy?"

One of the book's authors, Emad Shahin, a professor at the American University in Cairo, termed their product "a practical book (which) ... also instills certain values.

"It's not a superficial manual for how to teach democracy in a crash course in five minutes," he says. "I think it's really profound because it tries to reflect values in a simple way, not simplistic but very simple, very straightforward way that can make it accessible to everyone."

Aly Abuzaakuk, CSID's program manager for the Middle East and North Africa, expressed confidence the StreetLaw-CSID effort could advance an emerging wave of reform in human rights, accountability and transparency in many Arab countries. Recent experience has shown that "pressures from inside, the civil society organizations, coupled with some leverage from outside will produce results," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦



Islam and Democracy: Towards Effective Citizenship, A hands-on book for teaching democracy in the Arab World

democracy in simple language.

"CSID has run probably hundreds of conferences on the subject of Islam and democracy," he says, "but after a while we noticed that we were basically getting the same crowd -- the intellectual leaders, the political and religious leaders of the country -- and they don't need these conferences.

"The challenge is, how do we convince the millions of other people ... in the Arab world," Mas-

United Nations Seeks \$4.6 Billion for Humanitarian Aid in 2006

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The United Nations is appealing for \$4.7 billion to support 31 million people affected by war, natural disasters and other catastrophes in 26 countries during 2006.

Launching the 2006 Humanitarian Appeal on November 30, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that the United Nations was asking for the funds on behalf of desperate people -- "women and children threatened by conflicts in Darfur and the Central African Republic . . . villagers made homeless by floods and hurricanes in Guatemala, civilians displaced by instability in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, and families lacking food in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso."

The 2006 appeal consolidates requests for relief projects of U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Palestinian Territory, Nepal, Republic of Congo, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and countries in the Great Lakes region and West Africa, as well as appeals for \$1.5 billion for Sudan and \$1.17 billion for Congo, which will be highlighted the week of December 5 in Geneva.

Another \$766 million is needed in

the coming year for appeals initiated in 2005 for the South Asian earthquake, the Indian Ocean tsunami, Malawi, Guatemala, and West and Central Africa cholera.

"Flash appeals," which respond to sudden emergencies during the year, are not anticipated in the annual appeal.

Jan Egeland, U.N. humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, said the United Nations



Jan Egeland

mission, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Denmark and Germany.

Nineteen new donors made contributions in 2005. Egeland said he hopes to have at least 19 additional new donors in 2006.

"I do not believe we are asking too much," Egeland said. "We are asking exactly the amount of 48

hours of military spending in this world or we're asking for the equivalent of two cups of coffee per person in the industrialized world."

In 2005 the humanitarian programs grew as never before, he said. When the annual appeal for 2005 was launched the United Nations asked for \$1.7 billion. Nevertheless, by the end of 2005, the appeals responding to a variety of disasters and

problems totaled \$5.9 billion.

For information on U.S. aid policies and programs see Humanitarian Assistance and Refugees (http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/refugees.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦



"has never ever asked for so much money" but is doing so now because of the unusually large number of natural disasters and the expansion of programs in countries plagued by violence and conflict.

The number of donors to the U.N. appeals has grown over the years from 29 in 2001 to 74 donors in 2005. "The biggest absolute donor," Egeland said, is the United States. Other top donors are the United Kingdom, European Com-

Cooked Poultry, Eggs Will Not Transmit Bird Flu Virus

Birds from flocks infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza never should enter the food chain, but if they do, the virus will not survive if poultry is cooked to 70 degrees Celsius, according to guidance issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In a December 5 statement issued to resolve confusion as the H5N1 virus enters more countries, the agencies say that consumers face no risk of encountering the virus if it has not appeared first in live poultry in their area.

No epidemiological information surrounding the more than 130 human cases that have occurred in five nations indicates that the disease is transmitted through poultry consumption. One infected patient is believed to have contracted the virus after drinking duck's blood.

Most human cases of H5N1 have occurred in home slaughtering, handling and cooking of diseased birds, the health agencies say.

For additional information on the avian influenza and efforts to combat it, see Bird Flu (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html).

The text of the WHO/FAO guidance follows:

(begin text)

World Health Organization

No bird flu risk for consumers from properly cooked poultry and eggs

5 December – Geneva Chicken and other poultry are safe to eat if cooked properly, according to a joint statement by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) issued to national food safety authorities. However, no birds from flocks with disease should enter the food chain.



FAO/WHO made the statement to clarify food safety issues in relation to the current avian influenza crisis. The statement has been issued through the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN).

In areas where there is no avian influenza outbreak in poultry, there is no risk that consumers will be exposed to the virus via the handling or consumption of poultry or poultry products.

Cooking of poultry (e.g. chicken, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea-fowl) at or above 70°C throughout the product, so that absolutely no meat remains raw and red, is a safe measure to kill the H5N1 virus in areas with outbreaks in poultry, FAO/WHO said. This ensures that there is no active virus remaining if the live bird has been infected and has mistakenly entered the food chain. To date, there is no epidemiological evi-

dence that people have become infected after eating contaminated poultry meat that has been properly cooked.

Poultry

From the information currently available, a large number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza acquired their infection during the home slaughtering and subsequent handling of diseased or dead birds prior to cooking. FAO and WHO emphasize that in the process of killing and preparing a live bird for food, slaughtering poses the greatest risk of passing the virus from infected or diseased birds to humans.

Most strains of avian influenza virus are mainly found in the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts of infected birds, and not in meat. However, highly pathogenic viruses, such as the H5N1 strain, spread to virtually all parts of an infected bird, including meat. Proper cooking at temperatures at or above 70°C in all parts of the product will inactivate the virus.

When a diseased bird is slaughtered, defeathered and eviscerated, virus from the bird can transfer to humans through direct contact. Infected poultry excrete virus in their secretions and faeces. Exposure might also occur when the virus is inhaled through dust and possibly through contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus.

In areas where marketing of live birds is common, the practices of home slaughtering, defeathering, and eviscerating increase the exposure to potentially contaminated

(Continued on page 17)

Cooked Poultry, Eggs Will Not Transmit Bird Flu Virus . . .

(Continued from page 16)

parts of a chicken. These practices therefore result in a significant risk of infection in areas with outbreaks in poultry.

It is not always possible to differentiate infected and non-infected birds in outbreak areas. Some avian species, such as domestic ducks, may harbour the virus without displaying symptoms. Therefore, people need to be fully informed about preventive measures, including the use of protective equipment. The practice of slaughtering and eating infected birds, whether diseased or already dead, must be stopped, FAO and WHO warn. These birds should also not be used for animal feed.

Even in areas or countries where outbreaks are currently occurring, the likelihood of infected poultry entering an industrialized slaughtering and processing chain, and eventually being marketed and handled by a consumer or a restaurant worker, is considered to be very low, FAO/WHO said. Good hygienic practices during preparation and cooking poultry at temperatures of 70°C or above will further contribute to the safety of cooked poultry meat.

Proper vaccination of domestic poultry is considered to be a useful tool as part of an overall integrated strategy for the control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. It must be implemented in accor-

dance with existing standards and procedures for vaccination. With appropriate monitoring programs in place, vaccinated poultry can enter the food chain without particular risk for the consumer.

Eggs

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus can be found inside and on the surface of eggs laid by infected birds. Although sick birds will normally stop producing eggs, eggs laid in the early phase of the disease could contain viruses in the egg-white and yolk as well as on the surface of the shell.

Proper cooking inactivates the virus present inside the eggs. Pasteurization used by industry for liquid egg products is also effective in inactivating the virus.

Eggs from areas with outbreaks in poultry should not be consumed raw or partially cooked (i.e., with runny yolk), FAO/WHO advise. To date, there is no epidemiological evidence to suggest that people have been infected with avian influenza by consumption of eggs or egg products.

Recommended good hygienic practices to reduce exposure to the virus in areas with outbreaks in poultry

--No birds from flocks with disease should enter the food chain.

--Do not eat raw poultry parts, including raw blood, or raw eggs in or from areas with outbreaks in poultry.

--Separate raw meat from cooked or ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination. Do not use the same chopping board or the same knife. Do not handle both raw and cooked foods without washing your hands in between and do not place cooked meat back on the same plate or surface it was on prior to cooking. Do not use raw or soft-boiled eggs in food preparations that will not be heat treated or cooked.

--Keep clean and wash your hands. After handling frozen or thawed raw poultry or eggs, wash your hands thoroughly with soap. Wash and disinfect all surfaces and utensils that have been in contact with the raw meat.

--Cook thoroughly: Thorough cooking of poultry meat will inactivate the virus. Either ensure that the poultry meat reaches 70°C at the centre of the product ("piping" hot) or that the meat is not pink in any part. Egg yolks should not be runny or liquid.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

New Antibody Shows Promise as Anthrax Cure

Scientists funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases have engineered a new anthrax antibody that protects and defends against inhalation anthrax without the use of antibiotics and other more expensive antibodies.

The high-affinity antibody, an anthrax antitoxin, eliminated anthrax bacteria and its deadly toxins in animal tests.

If future tests concur, this could be the first successful treatment for late-stage anthrax infection, even for an anthrax strain that has been designed to resist antibiotics.

The new antibody treatment is the result of collaboration between scientists at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin and the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) in Texas.

"What we have found is that you may not even need the antibiotics to beat anthrax," said UT chemistry professor Brent Iverson. The new treatment "looks promising," he added, and could lead to a simpler and cheaper way to treat anthrax.

The new antibody is produced in bacterial cells, rather than the

more expensive mammalian cell culture now used to produce anthrax antibodies.

"A concern to national defense is that terrorists might design a strain of anthrax that is resistant to antibiotics," said Jean Patterson, SFBR chair of the Department of Virology and Immunology, "but this antitoxin could eliminate those concerns by providing an effective treatment that doesn't require antibiotics."

Anthrax infection is treatable only in its early stages, when antibiotics can be used to kill anthrax bacteria. Before 2002, nothing was available to treat the large amounts of deadly toxin released by those bacteria. The toxin leads to death in patients with late-stage anthrax infection.

In 2002, Iverson and biomedical and chemical engineer George Georgiou reported that their labs had developed a high-affinity, or "sticky," antibody designed to bind with anthrax toxin and remove it from the body.

The antibody was licensed to Elusys Therapeutics, a New Jersey biopharmaceutical company, which turned it into a full immunoglobulin G (IgG) -- the most abundant class of antibodies found in blood serum

lymph and active against bacteria, fungi, viruses and foreign particles.

In trials, the IgG protected test animals from anthrax when administered before and after exposure to the anthrax bacteria.

Since those findings, Robert Mabry of the Iverson and Georgiou laboratory reformulated the antitoxin to make it last longer in the bloodstream and produced the antibody in bacterial culture, which could eliminate the need for complicated and expensive IgG production in mammalian cell culture.

Iverson cautions it is not yet clear that this antibody treatment is as effective as the IgG antibody produced by Elusys, and that he and his collaborators are doing more studies to confirm that.

The researchers plan to conduct additional tests to determine how the antitoxin eliminates anthrax bacteria, which is still unknown.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007
251-1-174000
Fax: 251-1-242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



Death Penalty Remains Subject of Debate . . .

(Continued from page 12)

Court in 2002 abolished the death penalty for mentally retarded offenders and directed states to develop ways to enforce the ban.

Among states that permit the death penalty, 18 allow a judge to determine whether a defendant is mentally retarded. In nine states, the burden of proof of mental retardation is on the defendant, not the prosecution.

RACIAL FACTOR UNDER SCRUTINY

Even though more than half the inmates on death row are white, President Bush has expressed concern about racial fairness and adequate representation in death cases.

"Because one of the main sources of our national unity is our belief in equal justice, we need to make sure Americans of all races and backgrounds have confidence in the system that provides justice," Bush said

in his February 2 State of the Union address to Congress. "In America we must make doubly sure no person is held to account for a crime he or she did not commit -- so we are dramatically expanding the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful conviction."

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, of prisoners executed in 2003, some 41 were white, 20 were black, three were Hispanic (all white) and one was an American Indian. All those executed were men, but 47 women remain on death row.

Although federal prisoners are executed by lethal injection, the method of execution varies from state to state. The most common methods of execution in the United States are lethal injection and electrocution. In 2003, for example, of 65 executions, lethal injection was used for 64; one was carried out by electrocution. ♦

Africa-U.S. Energy Ties Highly Valued, . . .

(Continued from page 6)

world's oil supply -- about 12 percent of the world's daily energy demand of about 80 million barrels.

"With ongoing exploration ... and favorable political and investment climates, Africa will likely be the source of significant additional oil supplies over the next 20 years," he said. "It is the incremental barrels that help ... increase energy security."

Bodman said the United States government has been involved in a wide array of projects to help strengthen the ever-growing U.S.-Africa energy partnership, including the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project completed in July 2003 and the West African Gas Pipeline Project, which is scheduled to be operational in about one year.

The Chad-Cameroon pipeline, he said, transports up to 225,000 barrels of oil daily from Chad's oil fields to the coast of Cameroon, enhancing the economies of both nations. The West African line will deliver 140 million cubic feet of natural gas per day from Nigeria to commercial markets in Benin, Togo and Ghana.

Bodman said the untold wealth that has been produced by the United States energy sector is owed not to any native genius but to a dedication to market principles that have allowed the energy sector to develop without undue government interference.

The Corporate Council on Africa, established in 1993, seeks to strengthen and facilitate the commercial relationship between the

United States and Africa. Made up of more than 150 American companies doing business in Africa, CCA works closely with governments, multilateral groups and business to improve the African continent's trade and investment climate and to raise the profile of Africa in the U.S. business community.

For additional information, see Trade and Economic Development (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦